



2019

WORLDWIDE VETERINARY SERVICE

Annual Report

For a world
where every animal
receives the care
they deserve.

Cover photo: A puppy from Mafia Island,
Tanzania, treated by our team in 2019. You can
read her story at go.wvs.org.uk/mafia-puppy

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From the CEO

For over 16 years, Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS) has been operating at the forefront of animal welfare all around the world.

We've come a long way, and made a massive impact for animals in need, since I started the charity in 2003. Our focus every year is on making the biggest difference possible for every single animal we have the opportunity to care for.

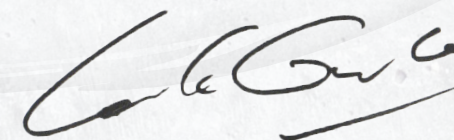
2019 was another epic year for the charity!

We kicked-off inspirational new projects sending compassionate and expert veterinary professionals where they were needed most. We expanded our world-class training so that even more animals in need can be cared for and treated wherever in the world they are. And we dispatched more veterinary aid parcels full of vital supplies than ever before – supporting the animal champions working tirelessly to look after the animals in their care.

We're under no illusion of the scale of the issues we are working to solve, but we are determined to do all we can to ensure that every animal receives the care it deserves.

Everything in this report is thanks to our awesome supporters; individuals, veterinary practices and, of course, our magnificent partners, major sponsors and grant funders. **Without you, none of this would be possible. Thank you for supporting our work and for championing animals every single day.**

Let's power on!



Dr Luke Gamble BVSc DVM&S FRCVS
Founder & CEO
Worldwide Veterinary Service





Why Worldwide Veterinary Service is needed

**Because
intervention
is needed**

Animals' lives differ all around the world, and their relationship with humans can be complex. The animals we help range from street dogs in India, to working donkeys in Ethiopia. Whether animals live in an urban jungle or a remote rural landscape, many live in constant danger of disease or injury. Sadly, we see similar threats facing animals all over the world: malnutrition, disease, injury, and mistreatment. Intervention is urgently needed.

5 of the biggest threats to animals right now

PARASITES

Parasites are opportunists and attack vulnerable animals, commonly infesting the host's digestive system, or living in their skin. Significant suffering, and even death, can be caused by worms, fleas, ticks, and mange amongst others. We can treat these cases with anti-parasite medication, but without access to this, animals often suffer alone.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Animals in the areas where we work are exposed to a wide range of infectious diseases, including rabies, and ranging from tick-borne ehrlichiosis, to life-threatening viruses such as parvovirus. We also regularly treat infectious tumours passed between dogs when mating – the spread of which can be reduced through neutering.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Tragically, humans inflict horrific suffering on animals, both deliberately and through inadvertent neglect. WVS is on hand to treat these animals in need and to educate owners and communities on the proper care of their animals.

HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

Throughout the world, animals roam the streets – often leading to traffic accidents or getting caught up in our rubbish. This, on top of injuries caused by fights with other animals, leads to a significant number of cases treated by our centres.

RABIES

The world's deadliest zoonotic disease leads to a cruel death for the thousands of animals infected year. As 99% of the estimated 59,000 annual human cases are caused by dog bites, communities live in fear of dogs – resulting in ineffective and inhumane culls. This suffering and fear is entirely preventable through effective vaccination.

On the Frontline of Animal Welfare

Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS) is at the forefront of animal welfare globally.

With our supporters' help, we provide free expert care to animals in need all over the world. We do this by sending vets where they are needed most, training them to increase the standard of care globally and by shipping urgent aid parcels worldwide, every week of the year.



Another incredible year for making a difference

Here's how your support impacted the lives of thousands of animals around the world last year.



The first veterinary care animals ever receive

As many of the animals treated by WVS have never benefited from the compassionate care of a vet before, the personal impact for each individual animal is immeasurable.

2019 saw WVS International Director of Working Animals, Dr Fran Compostella, travel to the Danakil Depression in Ethiopia – the hottest inhabited place on earth – where thousands of donkeys are working tirelessly to haul massive loads of salt over one hundred kilometres, all without veterinary care. Our focus through 2020 is to set up a mobile clinic so that life-saving treatment can be provided to these desperate donkeys. You can keep up-to-date with our progress by visiting go.wvs.org.uk/danakil-donkeys



While we're incredibly proud of these stats, what really matters to us is what this means for every individual animal. Read on to see how everything we do is focused on the animals we care for and how lives are being saved, every single day, thanks to your contributions.



The Waggiest Tail in Malawi

Chris is a gorgeous puppy who was brought into our clinic in Blantyre, Malawi.

His left leg was shattered when he was hit by a reckless driver and his life hung in the balance. Sadly, horrific road traffic injuries are all too common across our project sites.

While there is limited veterinary care available in Malawi, it costs significantly more than most people can afford. This is where Worldwide Veterinary Service step in – providing free veterinary care wherever we're needed, all over the world.

Sadly, Chris was also infected with a severe case of mange – a parasitic skin disease. This meant he was too weak to face the life-saving operation he desperately needed.

Undeterred, our caring team started a two-week course of pain relief and anti-parasite treatment to free Chris from the mites and re-build his strength.

Only now could they address his devastating leg injury. Upon full investigation our expert team realised their only option to save Chris' life was to amputate the damaged leg.

While this was an extreme intervention, it now means that Chris is healthy and free to live his life once more. He's quickly gained a reputation for having the waggiest tail we've ever seen at the clinic!

If it weren't for the WVS vets in Blantyre, this puppy's future would not have been so bright.



Read more
life-saving stories
online:
wvs.org.uk

Vets Around the World

WVS sends vets and vet nurses all over the world – wherever there are animals in need. In 2019, alongside our key project sites in India, Thailand and Malawi, we expanded the reach of expert veterinary care into countries such as Myanmar, Tanzania, Armenia and Mozambique.



Where WVS sent vets in 2019



Working equines

In Southern India, WVS is working tirelessly to improve the health and welfare of the working equines; donkeys, horses and ponies. Their well-being is paramount to the local communities who rely on them for their livelihoods and can only be sustained through proper care and treatment. This is a great example of how veterinary care can massively benefit entire communities.

Meet the Team:

Dr Dagmar MAYER



Dagmar is the head vet at the WVS clinic in Blantyre, Malawi. She qualified as a vet in Germany in 2004; now overseeing all clinical work at the centre. As for the best thing about working for WVS in Malawi? **“So many dogs don’t have to suffer anymore because of us. Many have never seen a vet before, so we know that every day we can have a massive impact!”**

Sterilisation outreach

Our teams are experts in humane and sustainable canine population control. This is key to halting the ineffective and cruel culling policies tragically still used worldwide. Throughout 2019, our vets undertook spay and neutering campaigns across the world, while also advising and training local authorities to ensure the long term adoption of these practices.

In total, 21,745 animals were safely and humanely sterilised.



Treating unique cases where no-one else will

Vets working for, or volunteering with, WVS spent 2019 dealing with some truly unique cases including a duiker, named Bryan, which was brought to our clinic in Malawi for urgent life-saving treatment. Read more at go.wvs.org.uk/bryan



Emergency response to Cyclone Idai

In March 2019, Mozambique was devastated by a category four cyclone. The extreme flooding dispersed and endangered over two million animals. In the immediate aftermath, WVS mobilised our International Director for Working Animals, Dr Fran Compostella, to provide urgent treatment and advise on the long-term care of these animals.

While many animals had tragically collapsed from exhaustion, Fran saved many more suffering with diarrhoea and breathing issues.

Additionally, with so much of the grazing land destroyed by flooding, owners turned to Fran for guidance on meeting the nutritional needs of their animals.

To support recovery in Mozambique, WVS has partnered with a local veterinary university to operate a mobile clinic. This all terrain vehicle is packed with much-needed supplies and has massively extended the reach of the university vets – ensuring that care is delivered where it’s needed most. Fran continues to visit regularly to train the local vets and raise the standard of care on offer.





World Class Training

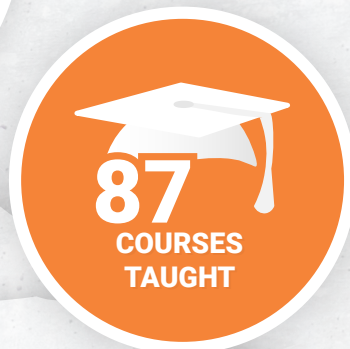
It's our mission to ensure that the impact we have for animals in need is both immediate and sustainable.

The key to this is delivering training to veterinary and animal welfare professionals to raise the standard of care globally.

International training centres

The charity runs three International Training Centres (ITCs) in Goa and Ooty, India and Chiang Mai, Thailand. From these centres we train both national and international vets in spay and neutering surgeries while also responding to the broad range of cases brought for treatment every week.

The animal birth control techniques taught are crucial to regulating canine and feline populations around the world – actively preventing the practice of mass culling which tragically still occurs in many communities. On top of our regular animal birth control courses, the centres run a variety of specialist courses which this year included everything from parasitology to orthopaedic surgery.



So much more than training

Our three ITCs are not simply training hubs, they provide a base for incredible and often challenging veterinary care – treating animals from both the local area and further afield where no other care is available. On top of this, they routinely rescue animals in need – caring for them until they are ready to be re-homed with loving families.

Donkey care education booklet

We're always looking for new ways to positively impact the lives of animals around the world – not simply focusing on providing veterinary care. With this in mind, our working equine team developed a visual guide on donkey husbandry to educate owners in the safe and correct care of their animals. The booklet has already been distributed to numerous owners while also being used in educational classes for children.



Meet the Team: Dr Poppy KORNKAEW

Poppy is a veterinary surgeon at our ITC in Chiang Mai, Thailand. He's part of the expert team providing surgical training and treating medical cases at the centre. **"It's an amazing experience to work with vets and students from around the world as we see them gain so much experience and confidence."**





Become an Animal Champion to halt animal suffering

The world needs more people like you! People who care about animals and believe that every animal should receive the care it deserves. Compassionate people who stand up for what they believe.

That's why we're asking you to become an Animal Champion by giving a regular donation to WVS. With the support of champions like you, we can care for more animals around the world.

We can send even more medication and supplies where they're so desperately needed. We can ensure more expert and compassionate vets see animals who otherwise would have no-one.

Together, we can fight the injustice of animal suffering.

Become an Animal Champion today by visiting
go.wvs.org.uk/halt-animal-suffering

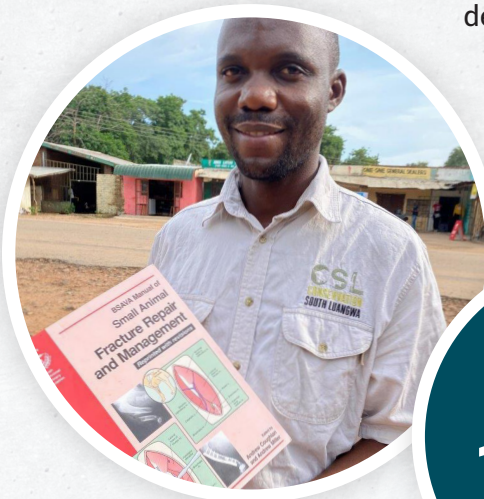




Sending Aid Worldwide

Sending veterinary aid parcels all over the world is at the heart of our charitable efforts. The offer of our support is open to non-profit organisations working to care for animals, wherever they are in the world. All species, any condition and every location – if we can help, we will.

From flea treatment sent to protect infected puppies from deadly anaemia in sub-Saharan Africa, to a dental de-scaling kit provided to help previously captive bears avoid starvation in Laos, we've sent a myriad of supplies all over the world.



1,134
PARCELS
DELIVERED

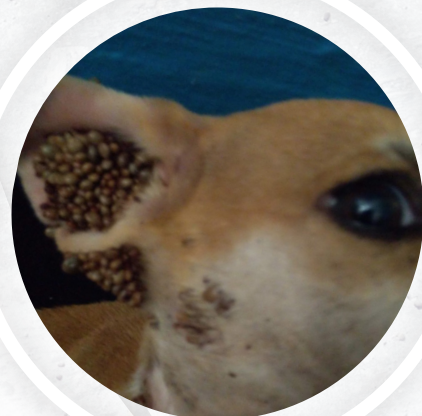
£285,782
VALUE OF
SUPPLIES
SENT

66
COUNTRIES
SENT TO

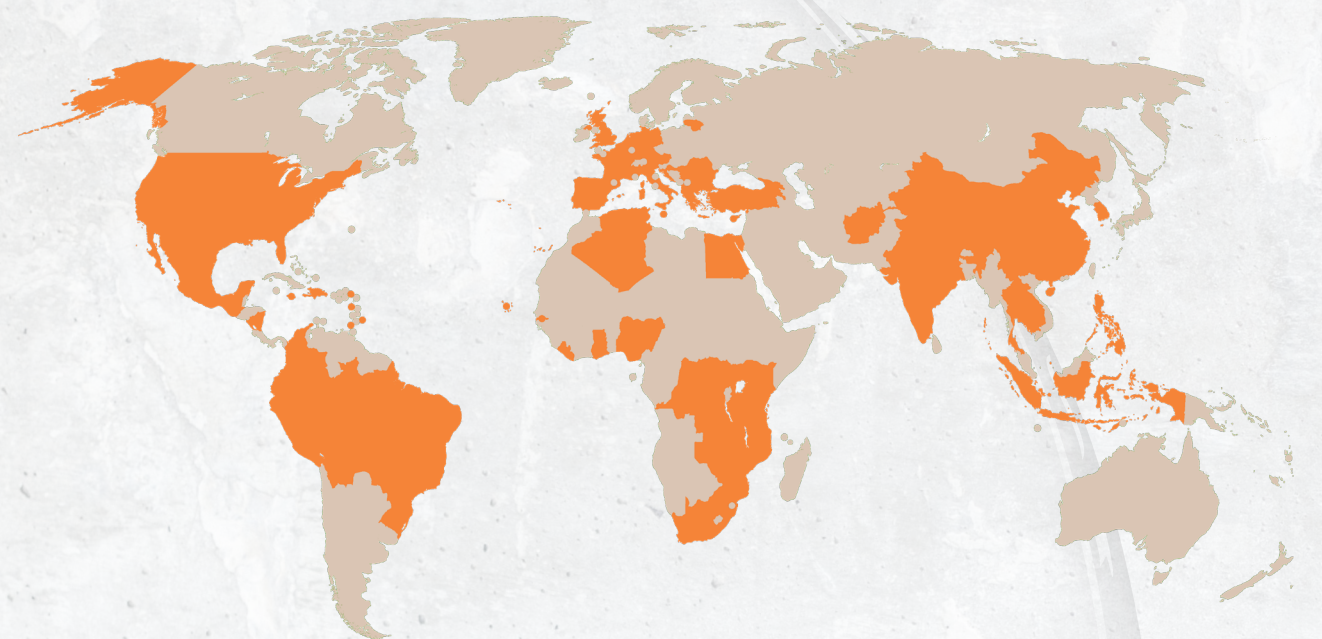
In April, we were asked by *Animal Welfare ILHA* in Mozambique to urgently help them deal with massive tick infestations for the street dogs in their care. One dog had tragically succumbed to preventable tick-borne diseases and many more were at risk of chronically suffering too.

Flea and tick treatments were quickly packaged up and dispatched – arriving in time to protect all of the dogs.

This is just one example of how providing the most basic of supplies can end needless pain and suffering.



Where WVS sent aid parcels in 2019



When *Tikobane Trust* in Zimbabwe were using limited supplies to care for donkeys afflicted by horrific axe wounds, they turned to WVS for help.

The wound cream we sent was used to soothe the inflamed areas and promote healing, while the sterile dressings protected against infection.

We were delighted to receive an update in December informing us that all the wounds had healed fully.

Meet the Team: Lulu PEDDLE



Our Charity Liaison Officer Lulu sends an average of three parcels, full of veterinary aid, every day. A trained vet nurse with 13 years' experience, Lulu loves ensuring a positive impact for animals in need around the world, **"I'm humbled by the stories and feedback I receive from the charities we support. It's amazing to be part of a team championing the needs of animals by getting supplies where no-one else can."**



No longer bear-ing abuse

In Bolivia, WVS routinely supports *La Senda Verde*, a refuge for over 800 animals across 60 species. One of these animals is *Ajayu*, an Andean bear who was rescued when his mother was killed and he was beaten by local community members.

Tragically, this beating caused significant damage to his sight and smell. *La Senda Verde* are committed to caring for *Ajayu*, but were unable to stop the local spider monkeys entering his enclosure and stealing his food. In 2019, WVS helped build a roof on his enclosure, allowing the bear to rest and eat in peace. We're delighted to hear that *Ajayu* is now very calm, enjoys his meals, and has even started to gain some weight.

In 2019 WVS also supported the vitally needed expansion of the refuge's veterinary clinic. The old clinic's size was severely restricting the care that could be given, but the expansion to include an X-ray room and new surgery, along with six new rehabilitation enclosures, ensures that all of the animals can receive the very best care.

You can read about vet student Laura's experience of volunteering at *La Senda Verde* on page 23.

Working for Wildlife

Increasingly, WVS is working with passionate animal champions around the world to look after the wildlife in their care. In 2019, this work was epitomised by two cases where we helped individual animals to secure the right, safe conditions in which to peacefully lead their lives.

A safe home for a Diamond Lady

At the *Laos Conservation Trust for Wildlife*, they're transforming a dilapidated zoo into a wildlife rehabilitation and release centre from which they can tackle the plight of trafficked wildlife. One of the Trust's residents is a magnificent elephant, *Kaew Khun* (which translates as Diamond Lady), who was rescued from the logging trade.

During the day, *Kaew Khun* is free to roam, kept safe by an elephant handler (mahout). At night, she is housed on an island to keep her safe. However, due to the lack of a proper enclosure to protect her safety, she must be chained.

This of course falls below everyone's expectations for *Kaew Khun*'s welfare so WVS is assisting with the construction of a new enclosure and perimeter fence to ensure her overnight home is suitable and she can live chain free.

Read about our future work with Elephants in Myanmar on page 26





MISSION RABIES

Much of WVS's work around the world is conducted in partnership with our sister charity, **Mission Rabies**. Someone dies from rabies every 9 minutes. Together, and with your support, we are working to stop the spread of the disease. With 99% of all human cases being caused by an infected dog bite, we work to restrict the disease's spread in canine populations across all project sites.

In 2019, 39,983 dogs were vaccinated against rabies by WVS vets on top of almost 300,000 vaccinations administered by Mission Rabies.

Outreach in the hills of India

Since 2018 the district of Nilgiris in India, home of our Ooty International Training Centre, has been declared rabies free. In order to preserve this vital milestone, the WVS team worked throughout 2019 to create a buffer zone across the border of the district. Impressively, our vaccination tracking shows that over 84% of the canine population is currently vaccinated, ensuring herd immunity and halting the spread of this horrific disease.

A truck-load of success

In India, Mission Rabies operates the world's only all-terrain mobile veterinary hospital. Through 2019 the truck visited Curca Panchayat, Bicholim, Pernem, Nagpur, Puna, Cancona and Ponda. In total, over 240 vets were trained across 20 courses by WVS and the MR Truck team, who also completed over 2,500 animal birth control surgeries.

Science & Research

The WVS App is designed for effective **data collection and team management in the field**. First developed in 2014, it continues to be a powerful force for WVS and other organisations to conduct efficient field research to benefit both animal welfare and operational impact. Research facilitated by the app was published in the *Veterinary Record* and the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education* in 2019.



Read more about the app online: go.wvs.org.uk/app

3 ways we used the app in 2019



Goa, India: we launched a study to investigate treatment methods for myiasis (maggot infested wounds), a common condition which inflicts chronic suffering on many stray dogs. The study is exploring resource requirements and healing times to allow clinics to better nurse these animals back to health.



In Tanzania, carts designed for oxen are routinely being misused for donkeys. This causes significant pain and suffering. WVS used the app to collect data to quantify the issue, meaning we can now work with the animal's owners to treat the donkeys and protect them from further injury.



Across our International Training Centres, the app is now being used to assess course participants' knowledge before and after each course – ensuring the best course content and structure. This work forms the foundation of a constant drive to guarantee WVS training is of a world-class standard.

Meet the Team:

Dr Emma RAYNER



As our International Research Manager, Emma supports both the collection and analysis of data and our educational programmes aimed at improving the lives of working animals, their owners and the wider community. **"I love evidencing how our work translates into improving the lives of so many animals and their owners all around the world."**



Young Vets Club

Children are the future of animal welfare. That's why we're focused on inspiring and educating them in new and exciting ways. Through our Young Vets Club, kids can get involved in animal welfare – learning about WVS projects around the world and joining in with activities that replicate the daily tasks of vets.

Getting hands-on

2019 saw us run two awesome event days for our Young Vets Club members. Participants were able to get hands on with a whole host of animals and learn about how the vets and vet nurses care for them. They also conducted their own mock operations on our training model – looking at an x-ray to find a foreign body in the animal's stomach before operating to remove it safely.

Lots of the children left more determined than ever to become a vet and we can't wait to welcome them onto a WVS volunteering trip in the future!

Our fund-razer champion!

Young Vets Club Champion Emma went the extra mile to fundraise for WVS, shaving off all of her hair... in winter! Not only did she raise over £300, she inspired her best friend Lily to heroically join in too – all to raise awareness of animals in need around the world. Thank you so much for your incredible commitment girls!



Meet the Team: Nicky COOK

WVS International Education Manager, Nicky, brings over 20 years' experience as a teacher in the UK, Botswana and The Gambia to enable children to share ideas about the global issues affecting animals. **"This generation need to be equipped to tackle the problems we have and work towards achieving a more sustainable world. My hope is that by connecting children all over the world we can empower them to take action."**

Check out youngvetsclub.com

Volunteer Focus

Wherever WVS operates in the world, we're joined by awesome volunteers. These inspirational volunteers deliver life-saving treatment to hundreds of animals in need. Here's just three of our volunteers' experiences from 2019.



Rita Wilson

We have opportunities for everyone! Rita isn't a veterinary professional but joined us at *Siyafunda*, South Africa, to support their vital conservation work:

"I would recommend it to everyone! It felt like I was in a wildlife programme... I expected David Attenborough to emerge from the bush at any moment! I helped with monitoring and tracking the animals while recording data to help with their conservation. I would definitely go again!"



Laura Foddy

Laura volunteered at *La Senda Verde*, Bolivia, for three months in 2019. Here's what she said about the experience:

"*La Senda Verde* is an absolutely fabulous experience mixing working with animals with an awesome adventure! It was great way to explore this incredible country and understand it culturally. Being in the rainforest was a stunning experience and I got hands-on with animals I would otherwise never have met."



Ellie Paton

2019 saw the introduction of our Vet Nurse Bursary, allowing dedicated nurses to volunteer on our projects for free. Ellie spent two weeks with our permanent team in Blantyre, Malawi:

"Sadly, the locals can't afford vet care, so will walk for hours to bring their pets to us. The animals we were caring for were often in a very bad way – being able to treat them and get them back to their owners is an incredibly satisfying feeling."

Ready for a life-saving adventure?

Inspired by the personal experiences shown here? You too could head on a life-saving adventure by volunteering at one of our awesome supported projects around the world. We have opportunities for vets, vet nurses and non-professional (but passionate) animal lovers throughout 2020 and beyond.

Check out go.wvs.org.uk/volunteer to see the latest trips on offer.

How You Can Support Us

We rely on the generous support of animal lovers to care for animals in need around the world. Whether you're a passionate individual or represent an organisation, business or foundation, we would love to share our mission with you.

However you feel able to support us, be it through giving your time, money or effort, you'll be ensuring that every animal receives the care they deserve.

Will you stand up for animals in need?

Donate

However much you feel able to give, you will make a real and lasting difference to an animal in need. You could be funding the rescue and care of an abandoned dog in Thailand or fighting for welfare rights on behalf of the working donkeys in Ethiopia's salt mines. Your gift will mean so much to an animal with no other hope of care.

Inspire a future vet

Do you know a critter-mad youngster? Is your child obsessed with their furry friend? Could they be a caring and life-saving vet in the future? Spark their imagination and encourage stimulating learning through our Young Vets Club! Created by professional vets and teachers, it's the perfect gift for all animal-loving kids.

Involve your whole practice

Do you represent a vet practice that's keen to make a life-changing difference to animals in need around the world? If so then our vet practice membership is for you! You'll receive 10% of two training trips for your staff, along with access to our Vet Nurse Bursary – allowing one of your nurses to volunteer on a project for free.

Grant funding

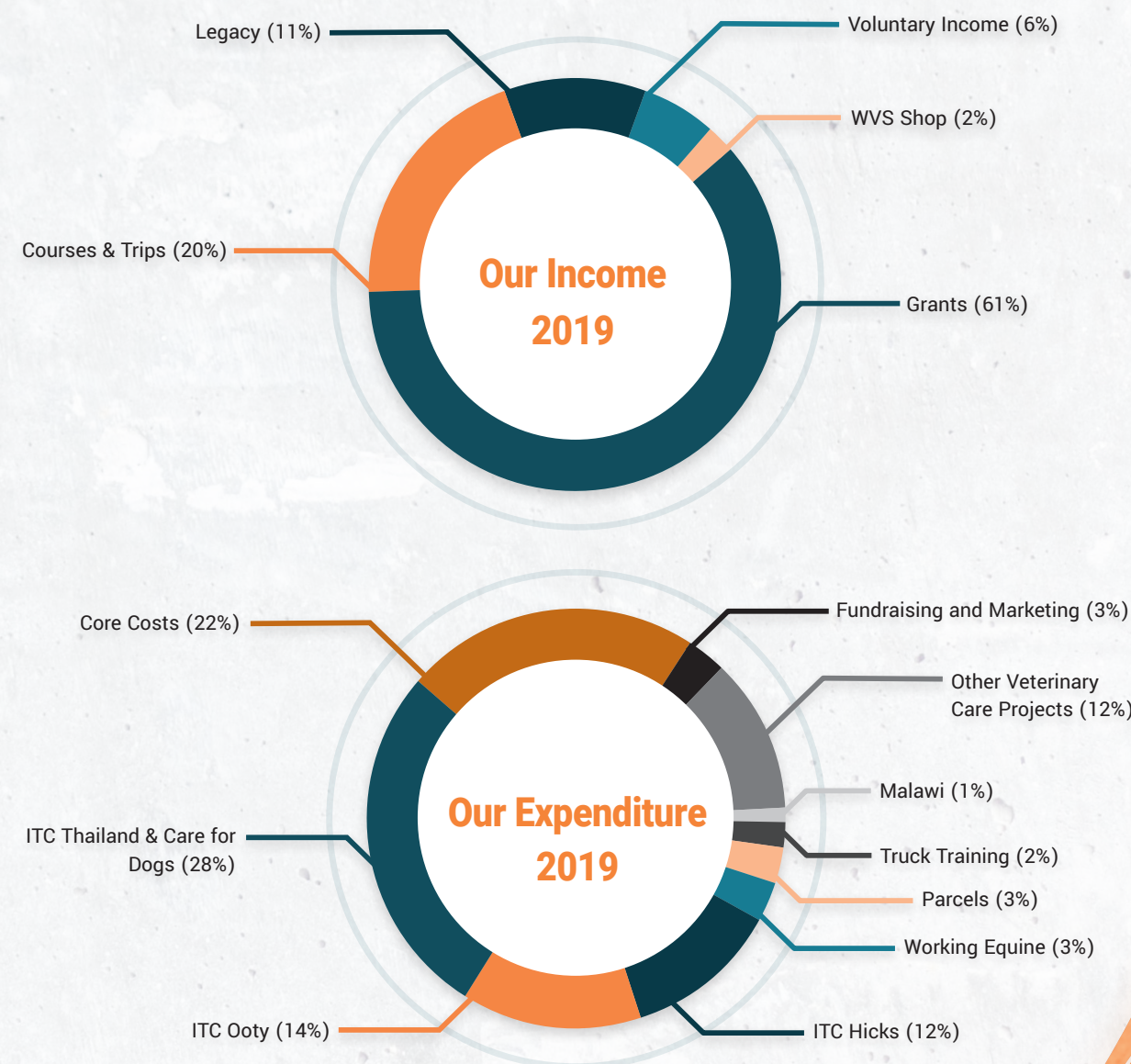
If you're interested in funding a specific area of our work, or one of our awesome projects, please contact our Head of Philanthropy by emailing grants@wvs.org.uk

In 2019, the phenomenal team from Companion Care Vets in Basingstoke took on a mighty 53-mile trek to fundraise for WVS, raising over £800!

Finances

In 2019, Worldwide Veterinary Service spent £1,731,306 caring for and treating animals in need. This is an increase of just over 3% on 2018 – demonstrating our commitment to positively impacting the lives of animals around the world.

We also raised more in 2019, up around 15% compared to 2018. On top of our incredible grant funders, we were especially grateful to receive a significant legacy gift.



Figures shown here are presented subject to auditing. Our annual financial reports can be viewed on the Charity Commission website.



The Future: Increasing Care for More Animals in Need

Around the world, animals continue to suffer
– missing out on the life-saving veterinary care they so desperately deserve. So for us, 2020 will be a year where we double down on our efforts to champion these animals in need.

Thai critical care unit

At our 'Care for Dogs' canine rescue centre in Chiang Mai, Thailand, we urgently need a new critical care unit. The old unit, which was built before we took the centre over, is no longer fit for purpose. So that we can provide better care for our most vulnerable patients, in more comfortable and safer conditions, we will be building a new unit.

Myanmar sterilisation outreach & working elephant care

In Myanmar, following outreach projects from our Thailand ITC and exploratory treatment visits from our International Director of Working Animals, two awesome projects will begin in 2020. A team from our ITC have been invited to deliver specialist surgical training in the country while we will also provide vital veterinary care to elephants rescued from the logging trade.

The desperate Danakil donkeys

As mentioned on page 7 of this annual report, the working donkeys of the Danakil Depression in Ethiopia desperately need our help. 2020 will mark the beginning of a new partnership between WVS and Mekelle University to operate a mobile clinic in the area, bringing the first veterinary care to these animals working in the hottest place on Earth.

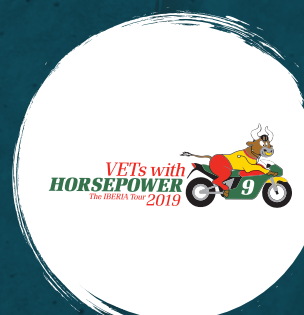
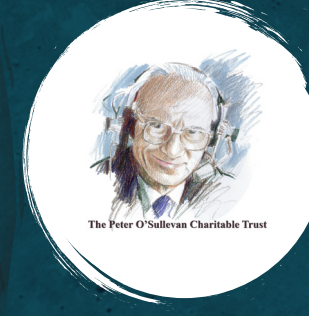
Pioneering study with the University of Edinburgh

In collaboration with the University of Edinburgh, WVS will implement a study to shed light on one of the most pressing questions in the field of animal welfare; what is the impact of intensive dog sterilisation on population dynamics, dog behaviour and quality of life. This will help drive our training approach and expert guidance we provide around the world.

Thank You

I hope you've enjoyed reading about the magnificent impact we've collectively had for animals in need around the world in 2019. As I wrote in my welcome note, it's all down to you – awesome supporters who really care about animal welfare. Thank you so much for making a difference for all the animals we are so lucky to share this planet with. Put simply, you rock!

Proud to have made a difference in 2019 with:





WORLDWIDE VETERINARY SERVICE

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